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**Date:** 1/25/2013

**GAIN Report Number:** MX3007

## Mexico

**Post:** Mexico

### **6 Additional GE Corn Pilot Tests Approved – 3 Others Rejected**

**Report Categories:**

Biotechnology - GE Plants and Animals

Grain and Feed

Agricultural Situation

Agricultural Situation

Planting Seeds

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**Report Highlights:**

On January 23, 2013, the Government of Mexico (GOM) announced the results of nine pilot permit requests for genetically engineered (GE) corn. Six pilot permits have been granted in a total area of 758 hectares (ha) in the Mexican state of Sinaloa. Three pilot permits were rejected for Tamaulipas, Chihuahua and Durango. Sinaloa is the same state where numerous requests for approval for commercial planting of GE corn are still pending.

**General Information:**

On January 23, 2013, the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (SAGARPA) published [updated resolutions](#) through the National Service of Health, Food Safety, and Food Quality (SENASICA) on the status of 2012 requests (July and August requests) for environmental release of genetically modified crops. Expectations have been high regarding requests for approval for commercial permits for GE corn requested also in August of 2012. At this point, no approvals for commercial planting of GE corn have been announced.

SENASICA announced the results of nine pilot permits for GE corn. Six pilot permits have been granted in a total area of 758 ha in the Mexican state of Sinaloa. Three pilot permits were rejected for the Mexican states of Tamaulipas, Chihuahua and Durango. Based on Mexico's Biosafety Law, all transgenic seeds must go through three different testing phases: experimental, pilot, and commercial. It is in the best interests of biotechnology developers to complete experimental testing as soon as possible in order to begin the pilot testing and, afterwards, the commercial release.

The six permits were granted for Sinaloa in pilot phase for two companies. Meanwhile for a third company with the same GE corn event (DAS-Ø15Ø7-1), three pilot permits were denied for Tamaulipas, Chihuahua and Durango.

The municipalities in Sinaloa where permits were granted at the pilot stage for GE corn from 2012 applications are in Table 1.

**Table 1. Mexico: GM corn permits approved for environmental release in Pilot Stage in Sinaloa.**

Event	Trait	Release Locations	Area Allowed (Ha)
DAS-Ø15Ø7-1	Glufosinate tolerance, Lepidoptera protection.	Ahome and Navolato	5.88
MON-ØØ6Ø3-6	Herbicide glifosate tolerance	Ahome and Navolato	0.3
DAS-Ø15Ø7-1X MON-ØØ6Ø3-6	Herbicide glifosate and glufosinate tolerance and Lepidoptera protection.	Ahome and Navolato	5.88
MON-ØØ6Ø3-6	Tolerance to glifosate herbicide.	Ahome, Angostura, Culiacan, El Fuerte, Elota, Guasave, Mocorito, Navolato and Salvador Alvarado	248.64
MON-89Ø34-3 x MON-ØØ6Ø3-6	Protection against some Lepidoptera and tolerance to glifosate herbicide.	Ahome, Angostura, Culiacan, El Fuerte, Elota, Guasave, Mocorito, Navolato and Salvador Alvarado	248.64
MON-89Ø34-3 x MON-88Ø17-3	Protection against some Lepidoptera and Coleoptera, tolerance to glifosate herbicide.	Ahome, Angostura, Culiacan, El Fuerte, Elota, Guasave, Mocorito, Navolato and Salvador Alvarado	248.64

**Source:** SENASICA and the National Information System for Bio-safety and Biotechnology: <http://www.cibiogem.gob.mx/OGMs/Paginas/Permisos.aspx> and <http://www.senasica.gob.mx/?id=4443>. Information as of June, 2012.

The next three requests were recommended for approval by the Secretariat of Environment and Natural resources (SEMARNAT). However, the final result came back negative. SAGARPA officials advised that this was the result of the risk assessment organized by SENASICA. It is interesting to note that the same event was approved for experimental and pilot phases in Tamaulipas, Chihuahua and Durango for other companies in 2011 and 2012.

**Table 2. Mexico: GM corn permits denied for environmental release in Pilot Stage in Tamaulipas, Chihuahua and Durango**

Event	Trait	Release Locations	Area requested (Ha)
DAS-Ø15Ø7-1	Glufosinate tolerance, Lepidoptera protection.	Matamoros, Rio Bravo and Diaz Ordaz, Tamaulipas	2
DAS-Ø15Ø7-1	Glufosinate tolerance, Lepidoptera protection.	Ojinaga, Santa Clara, Namiquipa. Chihuahua	6
DAS-Ø15Ø7-1	Glufosinate tolerance, Lepidoptera protection.	Gomez Palacio, Durango and Matamoros, Coahuila	4

**Source:** SENASICA and the National Information System for Bio-safety and biotechnology: <http://www.cibiogem.gob.mx/OGMs/Paginas/Permisos.aspx> and <http://www.senasica.gob.mx/?id=4443>. Information as of June, 2012.

Information from GOM since 1988 to date regarding the requests and permits for environmental release on experimental, pilot and commercial stages of biotech crops is available in the website of the Inter-ministerial Commission for Bio-safety of Genetically Modified Organisms ([CIBIOGEM](#)).

#### **FAS/MEXICO Comments:**

The recent approval of six pilot GE corn events is another step in Mexico's cautious approach towards biotechnology policy. The recent controversy regarding soybeans and honey (see GAIN [MX2041](#)) is an example of the overall sensitivity surrounding the development of biotechnology in Mexico.

#### **For More Information**

FAS/Mexico Web Site: We are available at [www.mexico-usda.com](http://www.mexico-usda.com) or visit the FAS headquarters' home page at [www.fas.usda.gov](http://www.fas.usda.gov) for a complete selection of FAS worldwide agricultural reporting.

#### **Other Relevant Reports Submitted by FAS/Mexico:**

Report Number	Subject	Date Submitted
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<a href="#">MX2041</a>	Honey Producers Fear Advances in Biotechnology	6/26/2012
<a href="#">MX2035</a>	Genetically-Enhanced Soybeans Approved for Commercial Use	8/6/2012
<a href="#">MX2017</a>	Mexico Approves 4 Additional GE Corn Pilot Tests	3/25/2012
<a href="#">MX2001</a>	GE Corn Pilot Tests Approved	1/6/2012
<a href="#">MX1100</a>	Mapping Mexican Corn and Implications for Biotech Development	12/21/2011
<a href="#">MX1086</a>	Biotech Corn Permits Being Reviewed-November Update	11/18/2011
<a href="#">MX1070</a>	2011 Biotech Corn Permits Being Reviewed	9/20/2011
<a href="#">MX1056</a>	2011 Biotech Annual: Mexico Authorizes First Commercial Biotech Cultivation	7/15/2011
<a href="#">MX1054</a>	June Cotton Update	6/30/2011
<a href="#">MX1102</a>	2010 Biotech Corn Permits Issued	1/26/2011

**Useful Mexican Web Sites:** Mexico's equivalent to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (SAGARPA) can be found at [www.sagarpa.gob.mx](http://www.sagarpa.gob.mx) , equivalent to the U.S. Department of Commerce (SE) can be found at [www.economia.gob.mx](http://www.economia.gob.mx) and equivalent to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (SALUD) can be found at [www.salud.gob.mx](http://www.salud.gob.mx). The inter-secretarial commission for biosafety of GMO, that maintain the National Information System [www.cibiogem.gob.mx](http://www.cibiogem.gob.mx) These web sites are mentioned for the readers' convenience but USDA does NOT in any way endorse, guarantee the accuracy of, or necessarily concur with, the information contained on the mentioned sites.